Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for identifying a Mycobacterium species comprising the steps of:

a) contacting at least one immuno-cross reactive antigen component of a mycobacterial species with a sample of a body fluid of a human or animal individual;

b) contacting at least one antibody, which is capable of reacting with a mycobacterial antigen of said mycobacterial species but does not cross-react with the at least one immuno-cross reactive antigen component, with said body fluid sample;

c) detecting the presence of antigen-antibody complexes, and identifying the Mycobacterium species present in said body fluid sample.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sample of a body fluid is chosen from the group consisting of serum, blood and excretion fluids, such as sputum, saliva, CSF (cerebrospinal fluid), or tear fluid, and solutions or preparations thereof.

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one immuno-cross-reactive antigen component is bound to a support.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one antibody for a mycobacterial species is bound to a support.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein steps a) and b) are performed simultaneously.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the support is chosen from the group consisting of membranes, dip-sticks, filters, spheres, granules and microtiter plates.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one antibody for a mycobacterial species is a monoclonal antibody.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting the presence of antigen-antibody complexes is performed by using an indirect or direct labeling method.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the detecting is performed by using a label chosen from the group of biotin, biocytin iminobiotin, digoxigenin, avidin, streptavidin, colloidal dyes, eosin or erythrosine, (colored) latex sols, carbon sols, metals, metal sols, dansyl lysine, Infra Red Dyes, coumarines, enzymes, and iodide labels.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the Mycobacterium species is identified on the basis of one or more reference patterns.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one immuno-cross reactive antigen component comprises the total of a preparation of Mycobacterium species, or the total of the culture medium of said species.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one immuno-cross reactive antigen component comprises a KP90, KS90, antigen6, KP100

or SP100 fraction of a total preparation of a Mycobacterium species, or a suitable fraction of a culture medium of said species.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one antibody for a mycobacterial species comprises IgG, IgA, IgM or any combination thereof.

15. (Previously presented) A diagnostic kit comprising a support, on which at least one immuno-cross reactive antigen component of a mycobacterial species and at least one antibody, which is capable of reacting with a mycobacterial antigen of said mycobacterial species and which does not react with said at least one immuno-cross reactive antigen component, are bound, and means for detecting the presence of antigen-antibody complexes.

16. (Original) A diagnostic kit according to claim 15, wherein the support is chosen from the group consisting of membranes, dip-sticks, filters, spheres, granules and microtiter plates.